

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 4/10/2008, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1 – 3, 5 – 9 and 11 – 13** are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments (*see Remarks 4/10/2008 [pages 8 – 9]*) with respect to **claims 1, 7 and 13** have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of these claims have been withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 4/10/2008 was filed after the mailing date of the non-final Office Action on 1/10/2008. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Casey R. Huffmire (Reg. No. 60,085) on 7/3/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 2: An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

wherein the second acquiring unit for acquiring acquires system user information from the external information processing apparatus that manages ~~[[a]]~~ the system user registered in ~~[[a]]~~ the network system; and further comprising:

an extracting unit for extracting system user identification information from the system user information acquired by the second acquiring unit and for extracting image-processing-apparatus user identification information concerning the image-processing-apparatus user from the log information managed by the managing unit; and

a determining unit for determining whether the system user identification information extracted by the extracting unit coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information,

wherein, when the determining unit determines that the system user identification information extracted by the extracting unit coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting unit automatically sets an output limit value acquired by the second acquiring unit as the limit value of the usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user.

Claim 8: An information processing method according to claim 7,

wherein the second acquiring step acquires system user information registered in [[a]] the network system; and further comprising:

an extracting step for extracting system user identification information from the system user information acquired in the second acquiring step and for extracting image-processing-apparatus user identification information concerning the image-processing-apparatus user from the log information managed in the managing step; and

a determining step for determining whether the system user identification information extracted in the extracting step coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information,

wherein, when the determining step determines that the system user identification information extracted in the extracting step coincides with the image-processing-apparatus user identification information, the setting step automatically sets an output limit value acquired in the second acquiring step as the limit value of the usage fee for the image-processing-apparatus user.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. ***Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 9 and 11 – 13*** are allowed.

Referring to **claims 1, 7 and 13**, the innovative limitation that distinguishes the Applicant's claim is deciding whether a group that is a management target for the log information coincides with the system group based on the information acquired by the second acquiring unit.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nakagawa *et al.* (European Patent No. 1 197 844) disclose a print managing apparatus which obtains a print history from a printer on a network and updates a print amount in the printer or an amount in which the printing can be performed by the printer on the basis of the obtained print history (*see Abstract*).

Nakagawa *et al.* (Japanese Patent No. 2001-282475) disclose a method for managing a print job to accurately acquire job information outputted from a computer to peripheral equipment and to execute an accurate job account (*see Abstract*).

Nozato (Japanese Patent No. 2003-280860) discloses a control method such that when job information is acquired, the process is advanced in the case of a non-registered user and an automatic registration process is then executed (*see Abstract*).

Nozato (Japanese Patent No. 2003-308185) discloses a management method to manage job information in accordance with an intention of a user by flexibly dealing with even a case that a new user or equipment is added (*see Abstract*).

Nozato (Japanese Patent No. 2004-178249) discloses information processing to save the labor for properly setting a limit value of printing limit for each user, which is one example of user information, when accounts of users are prepared manually or automatically (*see Abstract*).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Myles D. Robinson whose telephone number is (571)272-5944. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler L. Haskins can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Myles D. Robinson/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625
7/7/08

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625